



RED PANDA  
NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

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## YEAR-END REFLECTION FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am overwhelmed with pride and gratitude. Even during difficult times with the Covid-19 pandemic, we have so much progress to celebrate as we continue to fortify our community-based red panda conservation model. Thanks to supporters like you, I feel excited and hopeful for the future of our beloved pandas.

2021 has also been a time of learning for Red Panda Network. We continue to refine our ability to adapt to the manifold of conservation challenges that threaten not only red pandas and other wildlife, but people as well.

As you probably are aware, habitat loss is a matter of grave concern for red pandas. This is why we have launched and prioritized "Plant A Red Panda Home"— a national restoration campaign— to systematically target and reforest core habitats that have been degraded and fragmented to establish a biological corridor where wildlife can flourish. Initially, we started with small-scale habitat restoration activities; today the campaign has resulted in 134,000 native trees planted in approximately 90 hectares of degraded habitat (exceeding our initial ambitious goal of planting 100,000 trees!) by over 500 local people this year.

Plant A Red panda Home has provided green jobs and sustainable alternative income opportunities for the local communities committed to protecting red panda and their habitat.



"THANKS TO OUR INCREDIBLE DONORS AND PARTNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, WE ARE PERSEVERING THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME TO SAVE THIS ENDANGERED SPECIES."

You may also know that red panda poaching is now on the rise. Unfortunately, one of the ripple effects of Covid-19 is economic problems that are exacerbating the prevalent poverty among red panda range communities. The result: more red panda pelts confiscated – 37 – by enforcement agencies in 2021 than in previous years in eastern Nepal. Our response? The No Panda Poaching campaign. Its focus is on collaborations with law enforcement agencies and joint patrolling of forest habitats. We also augmented the skills and knowledge of 203 security officials, local journalists, and livestock herders on anti-poaching investigation and patrolling techniques. Additionally, in 2021, the district level Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was formed in western Nepal's Kalikot district. These achievements would not be possible without your support to stop the illegal red panda trade!

Protecting vulnerable red pandas from zoonotic disease transmission is also important. We collaborated with the District Livestock Service Center in vaccinating 2,046 free-roaming dogs for rabies and 150 more for canine distemper.

I believe conservation is not possible on an empty stomach and that enhancing the wellbeing of local communities is critical to red panda conservation. So we distributed 175 improved cooking stoves to local community members including Forest Guardians, herders, hotel and homestay operators (who are involved in ecotourism) and trained them in stove installation and operation, as well as provided simple and illustrative user manuals. These energy-efficient stoves contribute to the protection of red panda habitat by reducing fuelwood consumption while improving human health by decreasing indoor air pollution for local families.

This year we also started a conservation series, Habre Guff Gaff: Conversing Conservation, to share the stories and voices of local stakeholders, as well as best conservation practices, from red panda country. We produced 14 episodes (released four in 2021) that have reached over 50,000 people so far.

Finally, it is with my utmost pleasure to share that we have completed the construction of the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Living. This project began in 2019 which improves the living standards and increases the annual income of at least 2,000 local families. The center will support sustainable livelihoods among local people through education and skill-building workshops – from sustainable energy use and construction to organic farming to ecotrek leadership and homestay management – and access to improved technologies that foster environmental stewardship.

Our conservation success lies in the integrated community-based approach driven by the sheer zeal of our team and conservation partners in the field and around the world. We couldn't do this without you. Thank you for making 2021 another pivotal year on our journey to saving the last of the first panda!

With sincere appreciation,



**Ang Phuri Sherpa**  
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

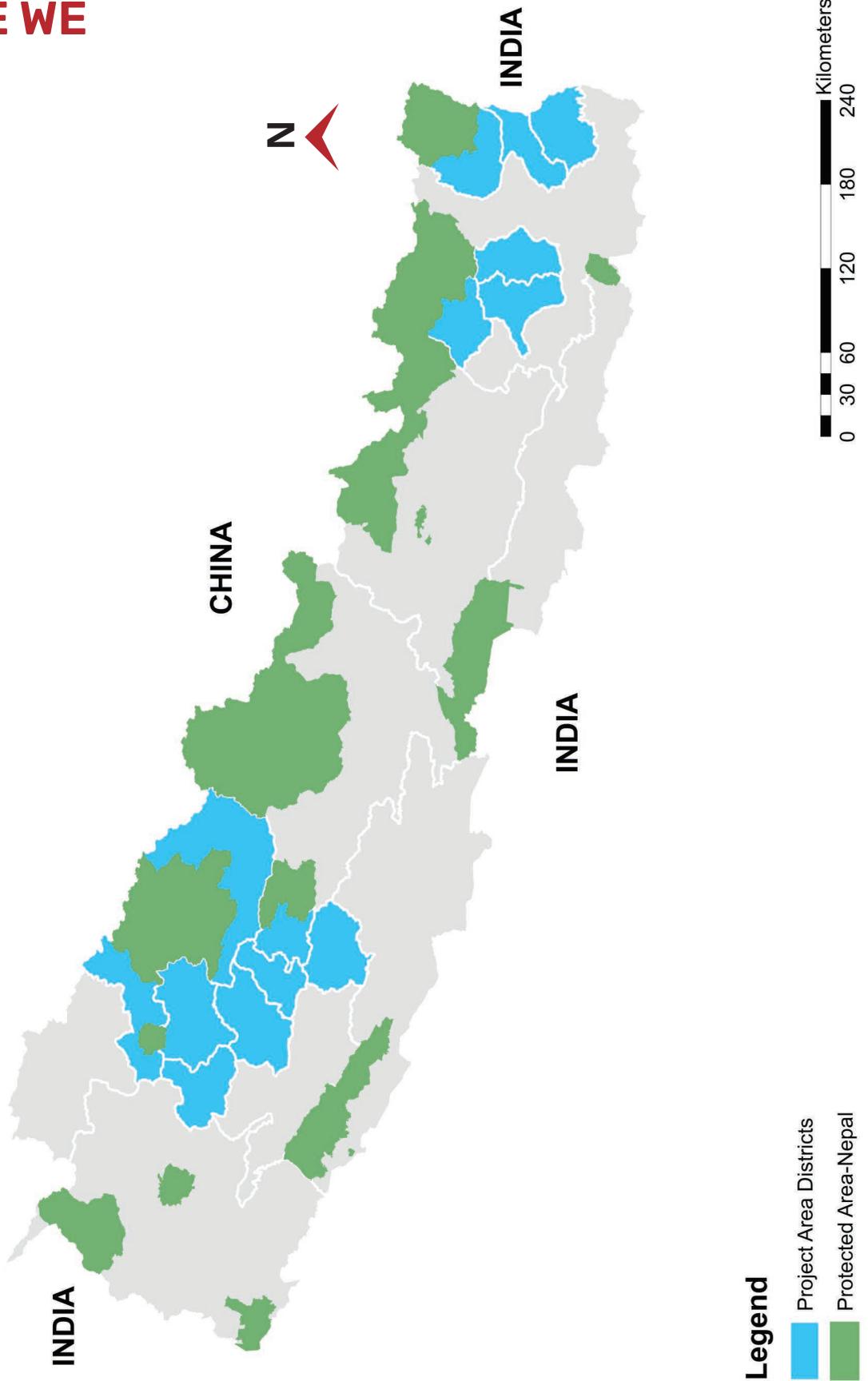


## RED PANDA NETWORK'S MISSION

RPN envisions a secure, viable and thriving population of wild red pandas through our holistic approach of community-based conservation.

With over a decade of experience in scientific research and in-situ conservation, RPN's expertise and impact ranges from grassroots to policy levels. Thanks to our supporters from around the world, we continue to deliver an outstanding track record of community-based red panda conservation.

# WHERE WE WORK







# RESEARCH & MONITORING

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**60 CF'S**

INCLUDED IN RED  
PANDA MONITORING  
PROGRAM



**1ST**

RED PANDA  
PHOTOGRAPHED  
IN WESTERNMOST  
RANGE



## UPDATE ON RED PANDA GPS-COLLAR STUDY

In 2019, RPN achieved something unprecedented: we successfully equipped ten red pandas with GPS-satellite collars in Panchthar and Ilam district of eastern Nepal. We monitor them for over a year with motion sensor camera traps to provide complimentary data. This telemetry project was implemented in collaboration with researchers from the University of Queensland, Rotterdam Zoo, as an ex-situ red panda research partner, the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation in Nepal as a facilitator. The study has resulted in publications with findings that will help develop sound red panda conservation strategies in Nepal and other range states.



**Here are some updates from the red panda collar study:**

- A protocol for tracking, capture, and handling of red pandas was developed during the study which could also be used (with some modifications) for other arboreal species.
- As a habitat specialist, red pandas are vulnerable to human disturbances and habitat fragmentation. Restoration that improves habitat connectivity, habitat zonation to limit human activities and reduce disturbances—especially livestock herding and road construction—may be necessary to secure a stable future for this species.
- The effect of anthropogenic disturbances and fragmentation on home-range size, activity patterns, and recursion of red panda, was explored during the study. The results indicated that current patterns of habitat fragmentation and forest exploitation may be adversely affecting red panda populations and that landscape-level impacts should be considered when planning conservation actions.



## MONITORING RED PANDA AND ITS HABITAT

Eighty-one Forest Guardians (FGs) monitor 89 permanent blocks, that expand 1,272 km of red panda habitat in transect length, in 60 Community Forests (CFs) and four National Forests in eastern and western Nepal. The monitoring data will give us insight into the red panda population including its status and impacts of natural and anthropogenic threats such as landslides, bamboo die-off, conventional livestock grazing, deforestation, forest fire and snares. FGs also sighted wild red pandas while monitoring the habitat of the project area.

## ESTABLISHING NEW MONITORING BLOCKS

Each year RPN identifies biodiversity hotspots in Nepal to form monitoring blocks where FGs monitor red panda and their habitat. Establishing a new monitoring block requires in-depth knowledge of local ecology and sizable human resources. Each monitoring block has four transects that are approximately 1 km in length. The transect line ranges along the altitudinal gradient of the CF; each transect line is set at 100 m distance apart. In 2021, 17 new blocks were established for regular monitoring in 13 CFs in the project area.



## CAPACITY BUILDING AND REFRESHER TRAINING

In 2021, 81 FGs participated in 5 training sessions that enhanced their knowledge and capacity in red panda habitat monitoring including establishing new monitoring blocks, red panda data collection, and CF boundary surveys. During the training, FGs are comprehensively instructed on proper use of field equipment for survey and monitoring and collecting and preserving red panda pellets for diet analysis and parasitic loads.





## **EFFORTS TO STOP THE ILLEGAL RED PANDA TRADE**

One of the most pressing threats to red panda survival is illegal poaching and trade—and it's getting worse. In 2021, 37 red panda pelts were confiscated by law enforcement officials from poachers which is the highest number to-date.

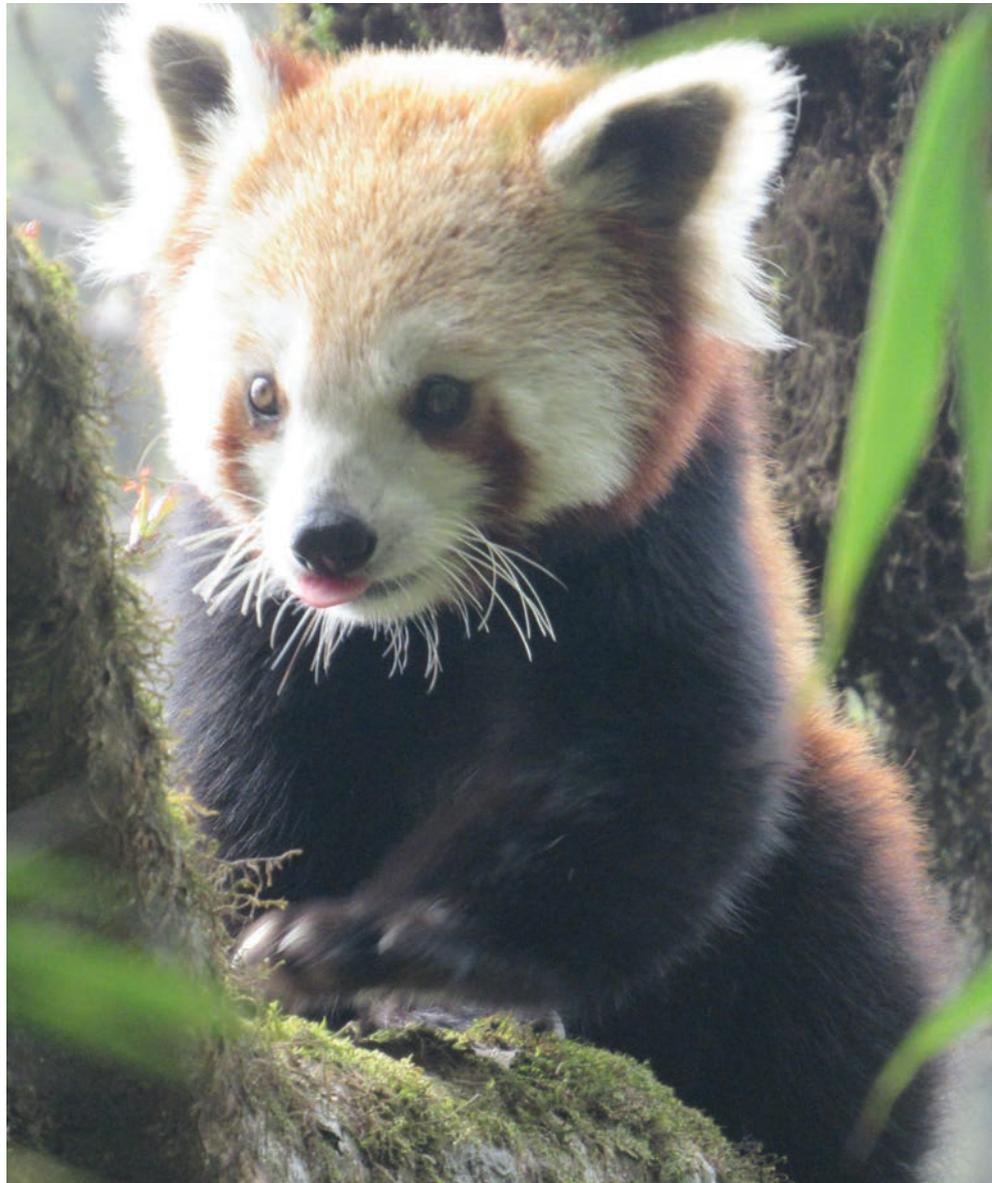
In response, we formed eight anti-poaching networks consisting of Community Forest User Groups (CFUG) members, security officials, FGs, ward members and forest officials who patrolled red panda habitat in areas that are at high risk for poaching. The teams spent approximately 437 hours patrolling approximately 197 km in 36 CFs where they recorded evidence of anthropogenic threats and illegal activities—collection of Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs), fodder and firewood, unsustainable grazing, forest fire and deforestation (local dependence on forest resources has likely been exacerbated by the pandemic), dismantled traps and snares set for wildlife, and submitted reports of ongoing illegal activities to enforcement agencies.



## RED PANDA HABITAT AND FOREST GOVERNANCE

RPN is collaborating with Griffith University, Kathmandu Forestry College, and University of Southern Queensland to understand ecosystem services in red panda habitat and recommend the effective governance modality that supports red panda conservation. This project will help us improve our forest information-base and enable stakeholders to develop effective conservation and forest protection policies.

We were able to create a comprehensive database of potential project stakeholders and develop a Payment for Ecosystem Services for the local communities through a reforestation program. A list of existing and potential revenue streams available in the project area was also prepared which will strengthen our sustainable livelihood efforts.



## RED PANDA PRESENCE-ABSENCE SURVEY IN WESTERN NEPAL

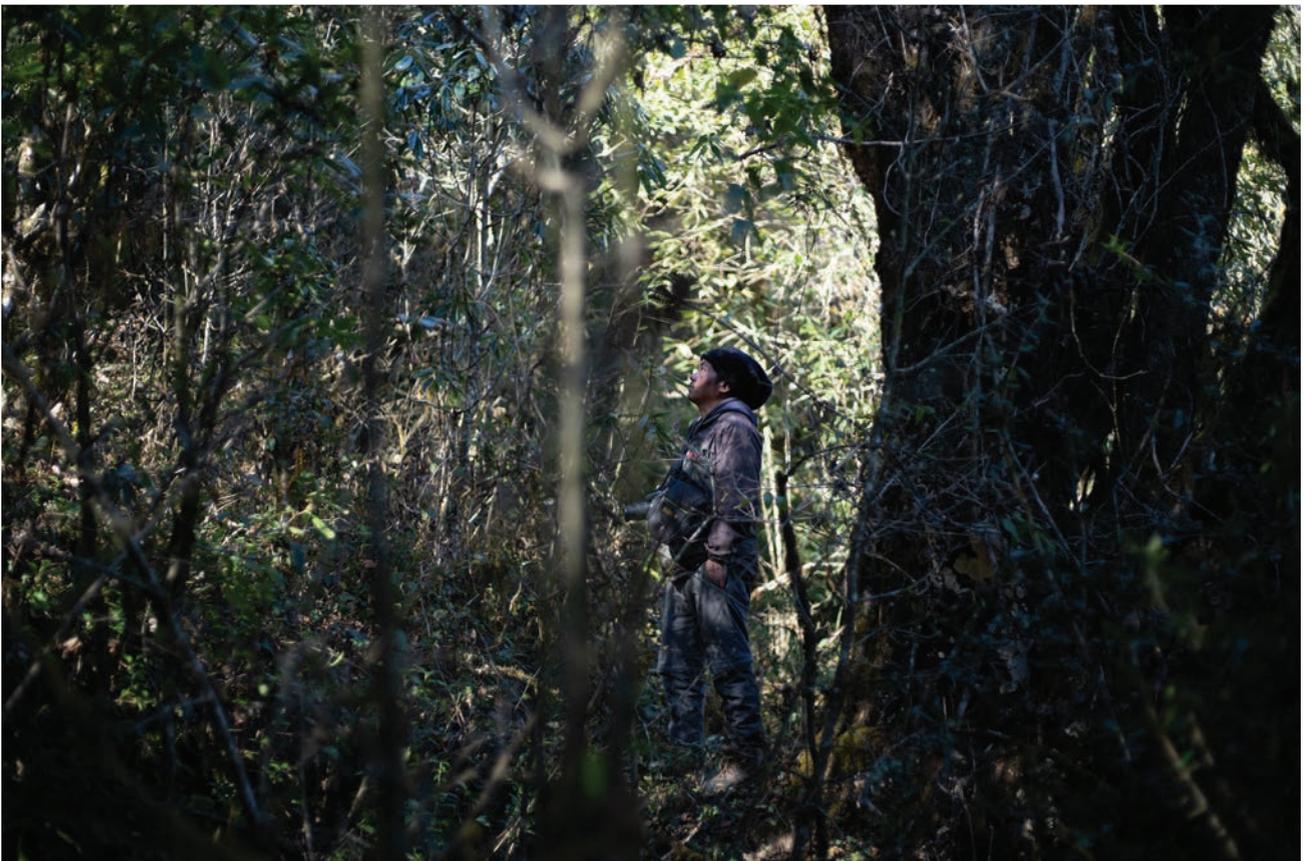
A presence-absence wildlife survey is crucial to devising an effective species conservation management strategy. The survey provides baseline data for classifying potential habitats and understanding population distribution trends, habitat status, and extant threats to the Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species. Presence-absence surveys of red panda were conducted within 12 CFs in five western Nepal districts where the team of FGs and CFUG members traversed 31.7 km. The team recorded signs of red panda in all 12 surveyed CFs, indicating the need for expanding conservation programs to the locations.





## FIRST RED PANDA PHOTOGRAPHED IN WESTERNMOST RANGE

During his first habitat monitoring experience, FG Man Bahadur Budha provided the first-ever photographic evidence of a red panda in Rukum East. This is a new evidence of the presence of Himalayan Red Pandas beyond the previously-known westernmost limit (81.687778°E) of their distribution range.





## BIODIVERSITY MONITORING WITH CAMERA TRAPS

Since 2018, we have been monitoring mammals of the PIT region with motion-detection camera traps. We have been able to capture a wide range of species diversity. A few species like the Bengal Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*, and Marbled cat *Pardofelis marmorata* were photographed for the first time in the area through RPN's camera trap survey.

We are now conducting this research in western Nepal. In Jajarkot district, five FGs from three CFs were trained on camera trap techniques, from navigating the settings to deploying in the forests. The trained FGs will be responsible for deploying the camera traps in their respective CFs.

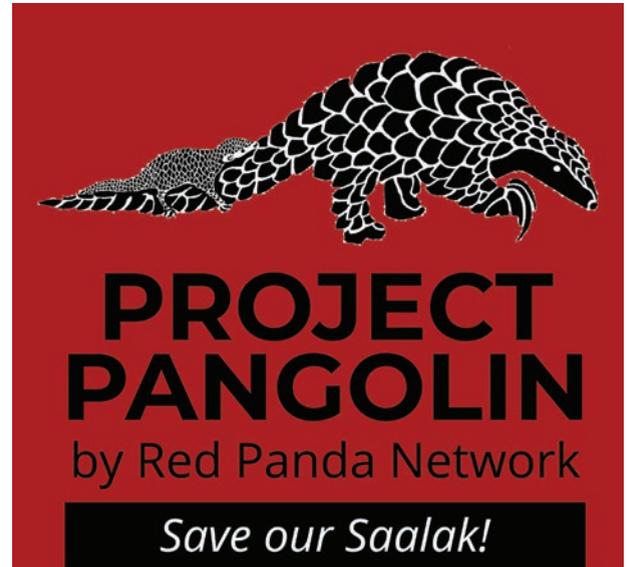
## CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR FOREST OFFICIALS

Two-day long training on "Red Panda survey & CF Operational Plan (OP) preparation" was organized for 15 forest members—forest technicians and guards, and augmented their understanding and skills on red panda monitoring, survey method and inventory of tree species. It will enable the training participants to upgrade the quantity and quality of the forest data and information and incorporate it in the OPs that contributes to the institutionalization of red panda conservation in the long run.

## PROJECT PANGOLIN

Like red pandas, pangolins are an extraordinary species. Unfortunately, they are also the most illegally trafficked mammal in the world. Nepal is home to two of the eight extant pangolin species—the Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* and Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*. The PIT region is home to red pandas and the Critically Endangered Chinese Pangolin and we are committed to conserving them both.

RPN has replicated the community-based red panda conservation approach to launch Project Pangolin. We will collaborate with local NGOs and concerned stakeholders on pangolin conservation in the PIT districts. A presence-absence survey was conducted in 11 villages of Ilam district to detect and map pangolin habitat and understand local perspectives of pangolin conservation. Potential habitats were identified through consultation with local communities and field surveys. Despite the presence of habitat, we have found that



the people living nearby are not aware of this species' importance (coupled with negative misconception towards pangolins) which seems to be burgeoning the threat of poaching and illegal trade.







# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

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**1ST**

CONSERVATION  
SERIES "HABRE GUFF-  
GAFF" LAUNCHED



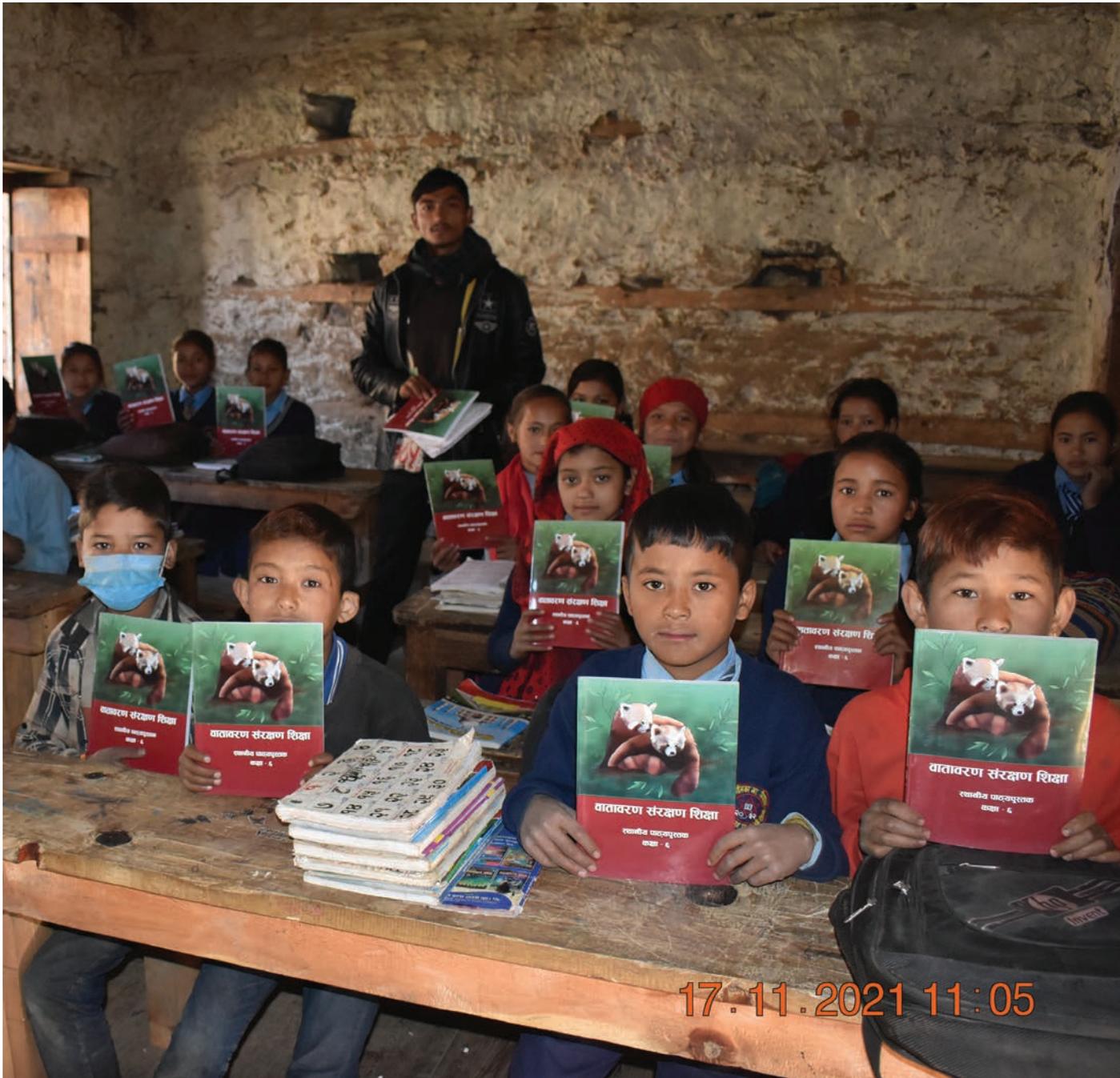
**20** MILLION

DIGITAL REACH VIA  
SOCIAL MEDIA



## RED PANDA CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2019, we initiated the red panda conservation scholarship which is both a merit-based and need-based scholarship that supports students who are academically driven but financially marginalized. In 2021, 156 students of 27 local community schools—some of them were children and siblings of FGs and nursery caretakers, received the scholarships.



## CONSERVATION EDUCATION TEXTBOOKS

Environment conservation textbooks were incorporated in the curriculum of 26 local community schools through local government approval and educated approximately 1,600 students of grade six and seven on red panda, biodiversity and wildlife conservation and environment related issues.



## EDUCATIONAL ECOTRIPS

Educational eco trips are an effective way to engage children in the natural world. In 2021, 131 students of seven local schools in Jumla, Rukum, Jajarkot, Dolpa, and Rolpa districts participated in day-long educational ecotrips. These educational visits have enabled the students to observe red panda habitat features, internalize the existing threats, and perceive the conservation approaches.



## INTERNATIONAL RED PANDA DAY

International Red Panda Day (IRPD) is a day of global education and celebration. It happens on the third Saturday of September every year. To mark the 12th International Red Panda Day (IRPD), approximately 1,600 students of 21 local community schools participated in IRPD events this year including poetry, essay, debate and art competitions. Local FM radio also broadcasted the outstanding poems and essays for wider coverage and awareness.

We also reached thousands of people from around the world through our virtual IRPD 2021 events, TV interviews, podcasts, and webinars, as well as raised financial support for “Plant A Red Panda Home” and “No Panda Poaching” campaigns.



## RED PANDA BULLETIN

Approximately 6,000 students and teachers from 34 local community schools participated in developing and publishing 44 issues of red panda wall bulletins to raise red panda awareness. The bulletins contained artwork, articles, poems and short stories on biodiversity and red panda conservation. We also published 1,500 copies of the Annual Red Panda Bulletin (a compiled version of wall bulletins) which will be distributed to various stakeholders including local schools, District Education Offices, Division Forest Offices (DFO) and other agencies.



## HABRE GUFF-GAFF SERIES

RPN launched its YouTube series “Habre Guff-Gaff: Conversing Red Panda Conservation” (Habre means red panda and Guff-Gaff means informal discussion in Nepali). RPN’s Program Coordinator, Sonam Tashi Lama, is the host of Habre Guff-Gaff who is joined by celebrity conservation ambassador Dayahang Rai, FGs, and other local stakeholders who share their amazing stories and inspiring efforts to save the red panda and other wildlife. Four out of 14 episodes of the Habre Guff-Gaff series were released in 2021 with an outreach to over 50,000 people so far.

## RED PANDA CONSERVATION RADIO PROGRAM

Like previous years, RPN signed a one-year media partnership with 5 FM radio stations in western Nepal. The stations broadcasted 15 interviews and 3 jingles on red panda and biodiversity conservation. In the year 2021, this education and outreach strategy has reached more than 80,000 people in the project area.



## CONSERVATION BILLBOARDS

We worked with DFOs and CFUGs in installing 47 conservation billboards in strategic locations in western Nepal. The messages of billboards prepared by local artists with locally available sustainable resources, focus on red panda biology and ecology, threats, conservation importance, and RPN's efforts to safeguard them. The billboards also convey information about the legal provisions including sanctions and punishments for illegal poaching and trade of red pandas. RPN placed fire warning display boards in red panda habitats that are at high risk of wildfire. Installing billboards is not only a great outreach tool but they also utilize local talent and provide alternate sources of income to disadvantaged local communities.



## ANTI- POACHING AWARENESS WORKSHOPS FOR SECURITY OFFICERS

RPN organized a series of five workshops on "Illegal Wildlife Poaching and Trade" for 141 enforcement and security officials of Panchthar district. The goal was to assist Border Out-Post security officers and Armed Police Force (APFs) members in mitigating Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) along the India-Nepal border by sensitizing them on wildlife crime issues, and forest patrols as well as by encouraging collaboration among stakeholders.

A representative from the respective DFO provided information on endangered wildlife in the area—including red panda and pangolin—and laws that protect them from IWT. There were also discussions on illegal harvesting of forest resources and haphazard infrastructure construction and approaches to intervene on issues affecting conservation.





## WORKSHOP ON WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL ISSUE

RPN facilitated with a workshop cum consultation meeting with 11 representatives members from DFO, APF, District Administrative Office, District Police Office, Nepal Army and other concerned stakeholders to brainstorm and discuss the possibility of forming district level Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and its role in wildlife poaching control. In November 2021, a district level WCCB unit was formed in Kalikot district (by central level WCCB) to combat illegal poaching, trafficking and trade of endangered species.

## WORKSHOPS ON HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) is a challenging and urgent concern that can adversely affect both humans and wildlife. We worked with DFOs in organizing workshops for 65 herders and CFUG members from Jajarkot and Kalikot districts to impart information on HWC causes, effects, conflict management and prevention strategies. Such programs will help to encourage harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.



# HABITAT MANAGEMENT

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**134,393**

TREE SAPLINGS  
PLANTED



**90**

HECTARES OF  
DEGRADED FOREST  
RESTORED



**240,000**

SAPLINGS RAISED IN  
FOREST CONSERVATION  
NURSERIES



## PLANT A RED PANDA HOME

Plant a Red Panda Home (PARPH) addresses the challenges of habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation in critical red panda habitat through active reforestation and natural regeneration. In 2021, RPN effectively restored 90 hectares of barren land and degraded forests by employing 4,800 work-days and planted 134,393 tree saplings. Forest conservation nurseries contributed the majority of the planted native tree species saplings. The work within PARPH is a small contribution by RPN toward the larger UN Decade of Restoration 2021 - 2030 program.









## **PURCHASE FOR NATURE**

Degraded land leads to habitat fragmentation, a dire threat to the red panda population. RPN addresses this issue by purchasing privately-owned land that is degraded and contributing to fragmented habitat areas. RPN then works to restore and convert such land back into functioning corridors. This work is a critical component of red panda habitat management and is supported by two interventions:

rehabilitation through the planting of native species and the construction of fences to protect and facilitate natural regeneration. This year, RPN purchased approximately 11 hectares of private land in Ilam. To better guard from anthropogenic impacts and wayward livestock, the protected area of planted saplings was fenced with 3.1 km of bio-fence.

## WATER HOLES FOR WILDLIFE

Red pandas need to live within proximity to a water source. In collaboration with local organizations in eastern and western Nepal, RPN has created and restored 16 water holes/small ponds in potential red panda habitat. These water sources provide drinking water for all local wildlife, including red pandas.





## SUPPORTING FOREST CONSERVATION NURSERIES

RPN is working with local CFUGs and municipalities to establish and manage nurseries where Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs), NTFPs, and native species (including red panda food species) are grown and cultivated. In 2021, RPN supported and established six new forest conservation nurseries, each with a capacity of around 20,000 saplings. Currently, there are twelve functional conservation nurseries in the project area, producing over 240,000 saplings. To meet our habitat restoration goals, we are ramping up tree sapling productions of native species as: *Sorbus cuspidate*, *Magnolia champaca*, *Schefflera impressa*, *Paris polyphylla*, *Actinidia deliciosa*, *Lithocarpus pachyphylla*, *Rhododendron arboreum*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Taxus walliachiana*, *Zyanthozylum armatum*, *Juglans regia*, *Diploknema butyracea*, *Cupressus torulosa* and *Yushania maling*.

## CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FOR NURSERY GUARDIANS

To ensure the adoption of good nursery management practices and the production of high-quality nursery stocks and planting materials, 13 nursery caretakers of conservation nurseries were theoretically trained on timing and method for seeds collection, processing, treatment and storage, seed sprouting, propagation, transplanting techniques, pest and disease control and practically mobilized on nursery bed, polybag and soil preparation, seed and cutting sowing techniques, and composting techniques.



## FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Nepal has been battling its worst forest fires in years, burning in at least 60 locations across 22 of Nepal's 77 administrative districts. As forest fires become an increasing threat, especially during the dry season, local community members are often the first to respond. RPN educated and trained community forest members of Taplejung on forest fire management techniques, including methods for controlling, suppressing and extinguishing forest fires. In total, three CFUGs of Taplejung, Kalikot, and Dolpa were provided with firefighting equipment and gear.



## CURBING RABIES

The booming population of free-roaming dogs in Nepal's red panda habitat is a human-introduced threat to local wildlife. Feral dogs can threaten red pandas through direct predation, potential disease transmission (rabies and canine distemper), and parasitic infections. Even a few red panda deaths can have a significant impact on the local red panda population. Fortunately, RPN led an "Anti-

rabies Vaccination" campaign that is making a difference. This year we were able to vaccinate 150 dogs against canine distemper. Additionally, 2,064 free-ranging, as well as domesticated dogs, were vaccinated against rabies. RPN also received the prestigious recognition of being a vaccination champion through the Alliance of Rabies Vaccination program.



## TAGGING TREES IN RED PANDA HABITAT

RPN implemented mapping projects in three CFs in western Nepal to create an inventory of red panda food and shelter tree species within the red panda's potential habitat. A total of 450 tree species were mapped and tagged by six FGs. The components on the inventory

include species, diameter at breast height (DBH), height, canopy cover, and GPS point. Organizing such an inventory will establish a baseline on the tree species needed for the survival of red pandas.







# SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

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**1ST**

SUSTAINABLE LIVING  
CENTER CONSTRUCTED IN  
TAPLEJUNG DISTRICT



**175**

HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITED  
FROM IMPROVED METALLIC  
COOKING STOVES



## CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The construction of the Sustainable Living Center, located in Taplejung, Nepal, has been completed after three years of uncertainties (COVID-19 pandemic and its effect). It serves as a central location for locals and visitors to learn about topics such as sustainable energy use, herding practices, red panda habitat management, and organic farming. The overall goal of the center is to alleviate poverty and create a multitude of sustainable living opportunities for the local people. RPN conservation impact will be bigger than ever with the Sustainable Living Center.



## PROMOTING CLEAN COOKING TECHNOLOGY WITH IMPROVED METALLIC COOKSTOVES

Rural local communities largely rely on forest resources to meet firewood, fodder, and timber requirements. Stoves are central to heating homes, cooking, and the socio-economic health of daily life. These traditional open stoves generate elevated levels of indoor air pollution and consume a high level of forest biomass. RPN is distributing Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) to reduce fuelwood consumption, conserve forests, protect red panda habitat, and prevent smoke-related health disorders. In 2021, RPN distributed 175 units of ICS and supported FGs, local tea-house, and homestay operators to replace their traditional cookstoves. The households received training on installation and operation processes and received an ICS manual to ensure effective usage. Our recent experimental research with Oregon State University has estimated that a single ICS saves around 19 kg of firewood per day; equivalent to reducing 3.30 metric tons of carbon emissions.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In 2021, RPN supported 60 local farmers and CFUG members with 60 poly houses to promote off-season vegetable farming. The farmers were trained on poly house construction techniques and educated regarding the importance of off-season vegetable production. They also received vegetable seeds such as coriander, tomato, turnip, spinach, carrot, and beans. Such actions have promoted red panda stewardship in local communities, provided a sustainable alternative livelihood, and reduced dependency on forest resources.

In collaboration with the World Food Programme, RPN provided financial and technical support to 20 local women from Western Nepal in mushroom cultivation; local women gained financial independence and increased autonomy through this initiative.

“ELIMINATING BARRIERS AND UNLEASHING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS THROUGHOUT COMMUNITIES, FOSTERING GREATER RESILIENCE AND PROSPERITY”, GAURA NEUPANE STATES.







## MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

Small Micro-Enterprises (SME) play a crucial role in strengthening local livelihoods by providing new job opportunities and multiple income streams. Under-represented communities such as low-income families, disadvantaged groups, and women can benefit from the SME sector as it requires minimal capital, simple technologies, and locally available resources. RPN conducted SME development training on nettle fiber refining and weaving training and homestay management training, intending to develop



entrepreneurial capacities and mindsets among low-income households living next to red panda habitat.

During the nettle fiber refining and weaving training, local forest users of the Taplejung district were sensitized to the economic value of the nettle plant, followed by cultivating and stem harvesting procedures. A hands-on demonstration of the boiling, beating, and drying process was given; machines used in the

boiling and beating of nettles were provided to participants.

Homestay management training was conducted for 6 local women of the Jumla district: The training covered a wide range of topics, including basic homestay hospitality, ethics, homestay laws, and regulations, as well as ways to prepare various hygienic cuisines. The participants were also given approval certificates for the official homestay registration and operation.

## ECOTOURISM WORKSHOPS

Maipokhari is a Ramsar site of cultural and religious significance that is home to over 300 bird species and other endemic biodiversity. This area is recognized as one of the most famous tourist destinations in the Ilam district. A workshop, "Mai Pokhari Tourism Destination Plan," was held to sensitize local communities and stakeholders, including community and private homestay operators, hotel owners, local municipality officials, and CFUGs on sustainable homestay management and operation, as well as waste management practices. Likewise, another

workshop with homestay owners was conducted to discuss the plan's goals and objectives, and its effective implementation to promote sustainable tourism.

In the Jumla and Kalikot districts of Western Nepal, an eco-tourism and homestay management workshop was given to the CFUG members, local elected members and homestay committee. In total, 46 participants were sensitized regarding community-based ecotourism and its significance in expanding livelihood improvement opportunities.



## NATURE GUIDE TRAINING

As a part of RPN's sustainable livelihood program, 10 FGs of the Jajarkot district completed nature guide training. This three-day comprehensive instruction covered a range of theoretical and practical sessions from the purpose, roles, and responsibilities of a guide, to bird identification, tracking mammalian signs, and fundamental knowledge of the geography and vegetation status of the area. This practical training is instrumental in diversifying livelihood options, helping generate multifold income while building community stewardship, and reducing dependence on natural resources.





## LIVESTOCK VACCINATION

Contagious diseases often associated with affecting dogs, like the canine distemper virus, can also spread from livestock to humans and wild animals. To help mitigate this problem, RPN organized a free vaccination campaign with technical assistance provided by livestock veterinarians. The campaign provided a cost-effective method of minimizing morbidity and mortality, ensuring animal welfare, and helping provide local farmers with some economic stability. Over 107 households from two CFs received services in the Kalikot district. A total of 313 livestock animals (123 buffaloes, 151 oxen, and 39 cows) received doses of Albendazole and Ivermectin. These vaccines help stimulate an immune response against different infectious disease-causing organisms and internal parasites.

## SUPPORTING HERDER LIVELIHOODS

Overgrazing and unsustainable livestock herding exacerbate the loss of red panda habitat. Such practices alter the composition, structure, and productivity of plant communities, all of which influence the suitability of the red panda habitat. RPN has established livestock herding management committees in the PIT region to encourage more eco-friendly herding practices. We have been supporting herders by providing access to clean drinking water taps, restoring and improving pastureland, promoting off-season vegetable production, goth stay tourism, and other practices to reduce their dependence on forest. We are working to make alternative income sources available for herders.



## IMPROVING TECHNICAL CAPACITY OF FOREST USER GROUPS

RPN collaborates with CFUGs to provide continuous support through the revision and implementation of OP and the capacity development of forest user groups. This support includes skills enhancement and training in finance and accounting. 18 members of 10 CFs received training and enhanced their organizational and financial skills to improve governance and transparency in forest and biodiversity conservation.





# GOVERNANCE



4,022

HECTARES FOREST AREA  
ALIGNED WITH RED PANDA  
CONSERVATION MEASURES



## ALIGNING CONSERVATION AGENDAS

RPN is in regular coordination with the local, provincial, and federal level agencies to develop collaboration and partnership guided by the conservation strategy. In 2021, 14 consultation meetings were held with government and forest officials, locally elected representatives, CFUGs, and other stakeholders on red panda conservation and emerging site-specific threats, field achievements, challenges, discussion for potential collaboration and feedback on tentative work plans. This commitment will create an enabling environment for institutionalizing red panda conservation in the federal government of Nepal.

## RED PANDA CONSERVATION MEASURES

The OP is the guiding document for the CFs. As such, it facilitates RPN's community-based red panda monitoring approach. In 2021, red panda conservation-friendly provisions were included in the OPs of 22 CFs covering 4,022 hectares of forest area with more than 15,000 forest users and endorsed through respective DFOs. These provisions included critical habitat zonation within the CFs, regulations on harvesting forest resources like firewood, bamboo, and its shoots, engaging CF users in regular meetings and workshops to review and monitor ongoing conservation measures of red panda, and other sympatric wildlife.



Clouded Leopard-*Neofelis nebulosa*Masked Palm Civet-*Paguma larvata*Common Leopard-*Panthera pardus*Tiger-*Panthera Tigris tigris*Marbled Cat-*Pardofelis marmorata*Leopard Cat-*Prionailurus bengalensis*Red Fox-*Vulpes vulpes*

## CONSERVATION IN BHUTAN

RPN also supported strengthening red panda conservation in southwestern Bhutan and transboundary areas. RPN has collaborated with the Royal Society for Protection of Nature Bhutan and Bhutan's Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Nature Conservation Division (NCD) for red panda research and conservation projects in Bhutan's Samtse Forest Division and Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve.

The goal of the Bhutan project is to strengthen the conservation of red pandas through such measures as: building capacity of the forestry officials on red panda monitoring; ascertaining the relative abundance and habitat use, and identifying conservation threats to red pandas in the southwestern part of Bhutan including the border area with India and enhancing awareness on red panda conservation in the local communities.

As part of this project, the NCD developed a Red Panda Monitoring Protocol, with the trainers and field staff receiving training on the monitoring process. The survey team received instructions on data compilation, analysis, and management. Red panda signs were sought; through the recording of disturbances, and the laying out of vegetation sampling plots. Camera traps were installed to confirm the presence of red panda and complement the data gathered through the sign survey. To better understand the local perceptions on red panda conservation, within communities, social surveys were conducted in and around the red panda habitat. Informational materials on the red panda were developed and disseminated as part of an awareness campaign.

## 2021 SUPPORTERS



*RPN acknowledges with gratitude the support received from each partner, donor and supporter in 2021.*

*We have made every effort to be as accurate as possible in this report to recognize our donors for their generous support.*

*If an error comes to your attention, please let the U.S. development team know by emailing [development@redpandanetwork.org](mailto:development@redpandanetwork.org)*

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# CONSERVATION PARTNERS

## ORGANIZATION/GIVING LEVEL (In USD)

### \$100,000 or ABOVE



### \$50,000 to \$99,999



EUROPESE  
VERENIGING VAN (EEP)

### \$10,000 to \$49,999



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



SCENTBIRD  
• NEW YORK •

### \$5,000 to \$9,999



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## \$1,000 to \$4,999

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- |   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| AAAZK   | Greensboro Science Center                                | Ouwehands Zoo (Rhenen)              |
| AAZK - Potawatami Zoo                                   | Henry Vilas Zoo  | Parc Zoologique des Sables d'Olonne |
| Akron Zoo   | Holtzman Foundation (Front Room Gallery)                 | Parco Zoo Punta Verde               |
| Assiniboine Park Zoo                                    | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development | Perth Zoo                           |
| Auckland Zoo  | Itozu Zoo  | Pueblo Zoological Society           |
| Bergbrand GmbH  | Kansas City Zoo  | RedPanda Earth                      |
| Bioparc Doué la Fontaine                                | Kolmården Wildlife park                                  | Rhenen(tree)                        |
| Buttonwood Park Zoological Society                      | Korkeasaari Zoo  | Rosamond Gifford Zoo                |
| Cincinnati Zoo  | La Pasarelle Conservation                                | Sacramento Zoo                      |
| Cleres Zoological Park                                  | Lancer Management Services                               | Sequoia Park Zoo                    |
| Cleveland Metroparks Zoo                                | Leipzig Zoo  | Tiergarten Schönbrunn (Zoo Vienna)  |
| Dublin Zoo  | Longleat Safari and Adventure Park                       | Wellington Zoo                      |
| Erie Zoological Society                                 | Magdeburg Zoo  | Woodland Park Zoo                   |
| Folly Farm Leisure Ltd                                  | Manor House Wildlife Park                                | World Bank Group                    |
| Fondation Ensemble                                      | Milwaukee County Zoo                                     | Zoo Amiens                          |
| Fondazione ARCA and Parco Natura Viva                   | Monde Sauvage Safari Parc                                | Zoo d'Asson                         |
| Gemeinschaft Der Foerserer (Friends of Tierpark Berlin) | Mulhouse Zoo   | Zoo de la Barben                    |
| Global Alliance for Rabies Control                      | Nihondaira Zoo   | Zoo Dresden                         |
| Grace Jones Richardson Trust                            | Oklahoma City Zoological Trust                           | Zoo Montana                         |
|   |  | Zoological Society Hertfordshire    |

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## UNDER \$1,000

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- |                                   |                                    |                               |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AAAZK - Green Bay Chapter         | Keystone Academy                   | Red Panda Roasters            |
| AiYuDesigns                       | Kigurumi.com                       | Réserve Zoologique de Calviac |
| ARTIS Amsterdam Royal Zoo         | Lake District Wildlife Park        | Rotterdam Diergaarde          |
| Body Délice                       | Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden | Saitama Children's Zoo        |
| Boras Zoo                         | Miller Park Zoo                    | Salzburger Tiergarten         |
| CCBC Nadacni                      | Mornington Solutions Ltd           | Scovill Zoo                   |
| Chester Zoo                       | Munich Zoo Hellabrunn              | Shepreth Wildlife Park        |
| Cinderelly's Cleaning Services    | NHS Environmental Club             | Sorei Cafe                    |
| Copenhagen Zoo                    | Nuremberg Zoo                      | Utica Zoo                     |
| DAS Studios Inc.                  | Omuta City Zoo                     | Vogelpark Avifauna            |
| Dayton Foundation                 | Opel Zoo                           | Woodside Wildlife Park        |
| Dortmund Zoo                      | Parc Merveilleux                   | Zoo Atlanta                   |
| Giardino Zoologico di Pistoia srl | Parc Zoologique de Paris           | Zoo Brasov                    |
| Givskud Zoo                       | Parken Zoo                         | Zoo de Champrépus             |
| Hitachi City Kamine Zoo           | Plaisance du Touch Zoo             | Zoo de Granby                 |
| Jihlava Zoo                       | Red Panda Adventures               | Zoo de Guadeloupe             |
| J. Weerman Berke                  | Red Panda Books, LLC               | Zoo Lodz Poland               |

## THE RED PANDA EEP FOREST GUARDIAN PROGRAMME

- |                         |              |                           |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 🐾 Leipzig               | 🐾 Boras      | 🐾 Ille de France          |
| 🐾 Nuremberg             | 🐾 Brasov     | 🐾 Krakow                  |
| 🐾 Welsh Mountain zoo    | 🐾 Chester    | 🐾 La Cornelle Merveilleux |
| 🐾 Ste Croix             | 🐾 Chorzov    | 🐾 Opole                   |
| 🐾 Shepreth conservation | 🐾 Colchester | 🐾 Parques Reunidos        |
| 🐾 Mulhouse              | 🐾 Cologne    | 🐾 Pyrenees                |
| 🐾 Antwerp               | 🐾 Cumbria    | 🐾 Salzburg                |
| 🐾 BMC                   | 🐾 Edinburgh  | 🐾 Shepreth                |
| 🐾 Ouwehand              | 🐾 Eskilstuma | 🐾 Woodside Falconry       |
| 🐾 Aachen                | 🐾 GI skid    | 🐾 Wroclaw                 |
| 🐾 Avifauna              | 🐾 Hellabrun  |                           |

## IN COUNTRY CONSERVATION PARTNERS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 🐾 Himali Conservation Forum -<br>Taplejung | Development Center - Kalikot                                      | Center Rolpa  |
| 🐾 Deep Jyoti Youth Club -<br>Panchthar     | 🐾 Himalayan Community<br>Resource Development Center -<br>Kalikot | 🐾 Destitute Castes Revoking<br>Forum - Dolpa  |
| 🐾 Mountain Organization Nepal -<br>Ilam    | 🐾 Karnali Development<br>Cooperation Service Society -<br>Jumla   | 🐾 Human Rights Environment and<br>Development Campaign and<br>Research Centre - Rukum |
| 🐾 Danfe Yuwa Club - Jajarkot               |   |   |
| 🐾 Human Rights and Environment             | 🐾 Human Rights Awareness  |   |

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

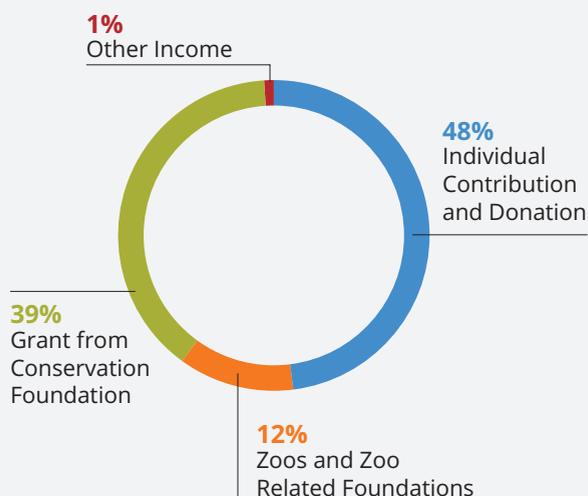
Ministry of Forests and Environment; Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen; Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment (Province No. 1, Lumbini Province, & Karnali Province); Department of Forests and Soil Conservation; Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation; Social Welfare Council; Nepal Police, Central Bureau of Investigation; Division Forest Offices – Dolpa, Ilam, Jajarkot, Jumla, Kalikot, Panchthar, Rolpa, Rukum (east), Rukum (west), & Taplejung; Education Development and Coordination Unit – Ilam, Panchthar, & Taplejung; Kangchenjunga Conservation Area, Kangchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council; Rural/Urban Municipalities; Stock Photography Nepal, Kathmandu Forestry College, University of Southern Queensland, Griffith University, University of Queensland, Oregon State University.

RPN would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our individual supporters and monthly donors (“Panda Guardians”) for your 2021 support and generosity.

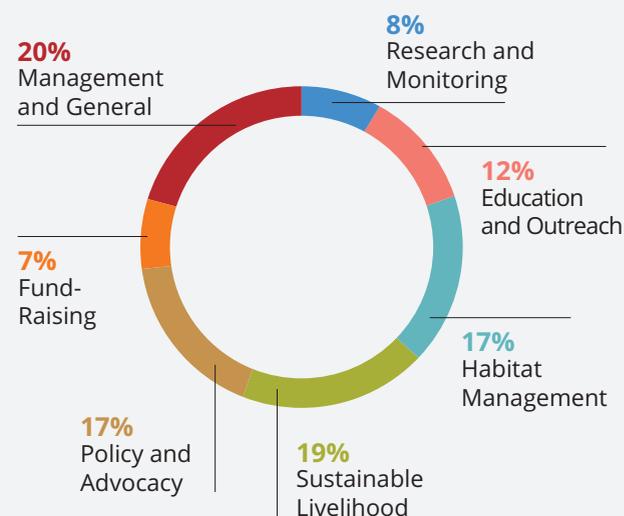
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Organizational financials (including RPN US and RPN Kathmandu Nepal operations) for 2021.

## 2021 TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT



## 2021 TOTAL EXPENSES



## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

As of 31 December 2021

### Income Summary

| Revenue and Support                    | Amount (USD)      | % of Total |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Individual Contributions and Donations | 423,648.21        | 48         |
| Zoos and Zoo Related Foundations       | 106,272.81        | 12         |
| Conservation Foundations               | 346,012.96        | 39         |
| Other Income                           | 10,954.00         | 1          |
| <b>Total Income 2021</b>               | <b>886,887.98</b> | <b>100</b> |

### Expenses Summary

| Program Areas                 | Amount (USD)      | % of Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Research and Monitoring       | 69,309.79         | 8          |
| Education and Outreach        | 108,851.11        | 12         |
| Habitat Management            | 149,168.64        | 17         |
| Sustainable livelihood        | 168,517.72        | 19         |
| Policy and Advocacy           | 148,237.06        | 17         |
| Fund-Raising                  | 65,060.86         | 7          |
| <b>Total Program Services</b> | <b>709,145.18</b> | <b>80</b>  |
| Support Areas                 | Amount (USD)      | % of Total |
| Total Support Services        | 174,017.41        | 20         |
| <b>Total Expenses 2021</b>    | <b>883,162.59</b> | <b>100</b> |



**PHOTO CREDITS: Front Cover:** Furry red panda sunbathing on a tree branch, photographed in Ilam district ©Damber Bista/RPN – **Inside Front Cover:** Temperate broadleaf forest habitat of red panda in Ilam district ©RPN/Rashik Maharjan – **Page 4:** Ang P. Sherpa ©RPN/Stock Photography – **Page 6:** Red pandas photographed in Ilam, eastern Nepal ©RPN/Chungba Sherpa – **Page 8 & 9:** Survey and monitoring of red panda and habitat by Forest Guardians ©Pema Sherpa/RPN – **Page 10:** One of the RPN's GPS collared red panda, photographed in Ilam district ©RPN/Chungba Sherpa – **Page 11:** Red Panda mother and playful cubs inside the habitat, captured by camera trap installed by RPN ©RPN – **Page 12:** Forest Guardian collecting pellets during regular monitoring in Taplejung district for its diet and genetic study ©RPN/Panjo Bhote – **Page 13:** Practical demonstration and navigation of hand-held GPS during Forest Guardian training (top) ©RPN/Rashik Maharjan; Forest Guardian installing camera trap in red panda habitat (bottom) ©RPN/Stock Photography – **Page 14:** The members of the anti-poaching network patrolling the red panda habitat in the Panchthar district ©RPN/DJYC – **Page 15:** Timber logs harvested from forest habitat (top left) ©RPN/Gyazo Lama Bhote; Bones of dead wild animals found during joint anti-poaching patrolling (top right) ©RPN/MOON; Snare set for wild animals in red panda habitat; encountered and dismantled by patrolling team (bottom) ©RPN/HCF – **Page 16:** Red panda sticking out its tongue on a tree branch, photographed in Ilam, eastern Nepal ©Pema Sherpa/RPN – **Page 17:** Freshly defecated red panda pellets on tree logs ©RPN/KDCSS – **Page 18:** Red panda resting on a tree branch, photographed by Forest Guardian, provided the first ever photographic evidence of a red panda in Rukum West ©RPN/Man Bahadur Budha – **Page 19:** Field enumerators noting red panda and their habitat status data (top); Field biologist inside forest during red panda habitat survey (bottom) ©RPN/Stock Photography – **Page 20:** Setting and navigating motion sensors camera traps to monitor wildlife movement and habitats in Jajarkot district ©Sony Lama/ RPN – **Page 21:** Logo of 'Project Pangolin' launched by RPN to conserve and protect endangered pangolin (top) ©RPN; Field biologist deployed for pangolin survey in Ilam district to monitor and note burrow description used by pangolin (bottom) ©RPN/Ngima Dawa Sherpa – **Page 22 & 23:** Community Education and Awareness: the cornerstone of sustainable red panda conservation ©Pema Sherpa/RPN – **Page 24:** The student of a local community school with award money and school supplies supported through Conservation Scholarships ©RPN/Pema Bhutia – **Page 25:** Students and teachers holding the Environment Conservation Textbook, developed by RPN and endorsed as a local curriculum ©RPN/Bibek Khadka – **Page 26:** Happy and content face of school students enjoying the red panda habitat captured during educational ecotrip in dolpa district ©RPN/WADCRF – **Page 27:** Students and teachers of local community school enthusiastically celebrated International Red Panda Day 2021 ©RPN/HURAC Nepal – **Page 28:** Students displayed written article and artwork on biodiversity and red panda conservation in Red Panda Wall Bulletin ©RPN/HCF – **Page 29:** Main logo of conservation video series 'Habre Guff-Gaff', produced by RPN – **Page 30:** Local visitors pointing to Conservation Billboards that highlights information on red panda, conservation importance and legal provisions regarding poaching and trade of red pandas ©RPN/KDCSS – **Page 31:** Anti-poaching Awareness Workshop for Security Officials in Panchthar district, eastern Nepal ©RPN/Jiwan Rai – **Page 32 & 33:** Workshop on Wildlife Crime Control Issues in Kalikot district ©RPN/HCRDC – **Page 34 & 35:** Lokta Daphne bholua plant RPN/Pema Sherpa – **Page 36:** Local woman holds saplings vowing to nurture them (top); Local communities transporting native tree saplings to plantation sites (bottom) ©RPN/ Panjo Bhote – **Page 37:** Group photo of local participants during a plantation program in Rukum West district (top) RPN/HURED CARC Nepal; Local people in action; planting native tree saplings in degraded habitat (middle left) ©RPN/ Nandan KC; Women for Forest: collectively planting tree saplings in barren red panda habitat (middle right) ©Dinesh Ghale/RPN; Local citizens planting fodder tree species in nearby degraded land (bottom) ©RPN/Krishna Kumar Rai – **Page 38:** 'Plant A Red Panda Home' board along a barren planting site in Kalikot district (top) ©RPN/HURENDEC Nepal; Gender, Women and Plantation: Local women digging hole and planting saplings in Kalikot district (middle) ©Dinesh Ghale/RPN; Fenced off plantation site to protect saplings from anthropogenic disturbances and animal movement (bottom) ©RPN/HURENDEC Nepal – **Page 39:** Temperate red panda forest habitat in Ilam district ©Damber Bista/RPN – **Page 40:** Waterhole created to provide perennial water supply for wild and domestic animals ©RPN/Jiwan Rai – **Page 41:** Conservation Nursery in Kalikot district, established to raise native tree saplings (top) ©Pema Sherpa/RPN; Forest restoration nursery in Jaubari, Ilam (bottom) ©Wangchu Bhutia/RPN – **Page 42:** RPN nursery caretakers during Nursery Management training in Panchthar district ©RPN/Pema Bhutia – **Page 43:** Hands-on demonstration of firefighting gear and equipment during Fire Management training in Taplejung, eastern Nepal ©Wangchu Bhutia/RPN – **Page 44:** Local woman with her dog vaccinated against rabies ©RPN/Panjo Bhote – **Page 45:** Native tree tagged for future monitoring and study ©RPN/HURENDEC Nepal – **Page 46 & 47:** Conservation and Livelihood: Local communities with all smiles in front of community polyhouse for vegetable farming that serve as a means of alternative income opportunities ©Dinesh Ghale/RPN – **Page 48:** The completed building of Conservation and Sustainable Living Center which serve as a hub for sustainable livelihood practices through educational and skill-building workshops ©Haris Chandra Rai/RPN – **Page 49:** Local families of Jajarkot district use energy efficient metal cook stoves to cook food and for heating purposes in smoke-free kitchens ©Dinesh Ghale/RPN – **Page 50:** Female agripreneur Gaura Neupane, cultivated mushrooms for commercial sale and thereby leased economic potential and made her financially independent ©Dinesh Ghale/RPN – **Page 51:** Saprura Singa, a 45-year local woman from Kalikot district, raised and harvested off-season vegetables from a polyhouse distributed by RPN – **Page 52 & 53:** Disadvantaged women communities preparing thread of Himalayan Nettle during Nettle Fiber Extraction training in Taplejung district Wangchu Bhutia/RPN – **Page 54:** The empowered local women homestay operators of Jumla district are all set to operate homestay and ready to welcome visitors in their village ©Dinesh Ghale/RPN – **Page 55:** Trained and equipped forest guardians cum nature guides exploring nature and bird watching in Ilam district ©Pema Sherpa/RPN – **Page 56:** Vaccinated domestic livestock of Kalikot against infectious diseases with technical support of district veterinarians ©Pema Sherpa/RPN – **Page 57:** Community Forest User Group Members learning account management and bookkeeping during training in Taplejung, eastern Nepal ©RPN/HCF – **Page 58 & 59:** Commitment of local stakeholders together for red panda conservation ©Pema Sherpa/RPN – **Page 60:** Community and stakeholders' gathering for workshop cum sharing meeting in Panchthar (top) ©RPN/DJYC – **Page 60:** Pristine landscape of Lungrupa village of Phidim Municipality Panchthar, RPN project area (bottom) ©RPN/Stock Photography – **Page 61:** Images of wild mammals recorded by motion sensors camera traps installed in southwestern part of Bhutan ©DoFPS/Bhutan – **Page 62:** Community Forest User Group Members preparing polybags of tree saplings for plantation ©RPN/DJYC – **Back Cover:** Soil mixing and polybag preparation during Nursery Management training in Panchthar district ©RPN/DJYC



# RED PANDA NETWORK

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